

Dept to treat heart ailment inaugurated

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Dr V.R. Nedunchezian, Minister for Finance, on Sunday inaugurated the Rs 4 crore department of cardio-vascular and thoracic surgery of the Kovai Medical Centre and Hospital.

Commending the role of private institutions in providing medical relief, the Minister said such institutions went a long way in supplementing the government's effort in providing public health.

Though the state government had allocated about Rs 480 crore for public health it was not adequate. But the government could not spend more because of financial constraints. Hence private medical institutions played an important role in filling the gap left by the government, he said.

Describing the KMCH as the 'pride of Coimbatore', Mr Nedunchezian commended the sacrifice of Non-Resident Indian doctors like Dr Nalla Palanisami in giving up their lucrative practice abroad with a view to serving the motherland.

Transport Minister K.A. Sengottiah declared open a modern catheter laboratory and non-invasive cardiology laboratory.

Mr B.K.R. Krishnaraj Vaanavarayar, managing director, Sakthi Textiles, presided. Dr Nalla Palaniswami, chairman of the hospital, welcomed the gathering. Dr R. Mathuswami, cardiac surgeon, proposed a vote of thanks.

Dr Balasundaram, cardiac surgeon, Mr V.K. Lakshmanan, M.L.A., Singai Govindaraj, M.L.A., Dr K.S. Soundaram, MP, Mr P.G. Narayanan, MO and other offered felicitations.

Under one roof: Earlier talking to newsmen here on Saturday, Dr Nalla Palaniswami said the unique feature of the department was that it has under one roof, all facilities for treatment of ailments of heart and lungs, such as computerised echo scan, colour Doppler, exercise test equipment ICU for resuscitation of heart attacks, computerised lung function test, blood gas analyser, rigid bronchoscopy for diagnosis and treatment of all lung diseases and operation theatres for conducting bypass and open heart surgeries.

The new department will have five divisions headed by eminent specialists, Mr Palaniswami said.

Embolization technique: The KMCH has introduced a new technique, "therapeutic embolization"

According to Dr Mathew Cherian, radiologist, embolization is the exact opposite of the technique called angioplasty wherein a balloon catheter is introduced into the blocked blood vessel and dilated to compress the plaque that blocks the blood vessel.

In embolization, the abnormal vessels are sought to be blocked with solid particles, liquids or detachable balloons introduced through special catheters.

According to Dr Cherian, the hospital has so far treated four patients through embolization. In the new technique there is only a small puncture made instead of surgery.

Embolization thus, can offer an exciting new area the management of patients with bleeding or vascular malformation. It is at present being done in only five centres in the country and KMCH had now joined this exclusive club, according to Dr Palaniswami.